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AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEBRASKA

State Board of Agriculture,

AT THE FAIR GROUNDS,

OMAHA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14, 1881,

BY

Hon. C. H. VAN WYCK, U. S. Senator.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF  
THE NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

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OMAHA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14, 1881,

BY

*Charles  
Conroy*  
Hon. C. H. VAN WYCK, U. S. Senator.

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LOAN STACK

**GIFT**

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## ADDRESS.

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This should be not so much the farmer's holiday, but rather the occasion for conference as to the manner of improving all the industries of the land, because only through the development of all and the prosperity of each is his own prosperity secured. Not only to reason together about the system of husbandry, for he must learn that the best is the only kind which will be found profitable ; that weeds and corn cannot grow on the same soil during the same season ; that one hundred acres producing fifty bushels per acre is far better than two hundred acres producing thirty bushels per acre. That wheat, in a large portion of the state, should not be grown beyond home supply ; the uncertainty of the crop and the large outlay for necessary machinery leaving but little to the producer. That the best grade of stock on the farm and in the market is that which is best cared for. The severe winter and the equally severe summer is teaching rather severely the lesson that cattle cannot subsist without feed and that less feed will be necessary where sheltered from the snows and winds of winter. And while discussing the treatment, feeding, watering and salting the herds and flocks, the growing wealth of this growing state, it will not be amiss to know the mode of watering other stocks and salting mines with minerals where none exist.

### I.

#### CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Every year is bearing its testimony to the truths of the thousands gone before : that there is no true excellence without labor, either in the field, the arts and sciences, the forum, the bench, or the pulpit. That no addition is made to the actual wealth of the world except by the labor of hands. No pyra-

mids in the deserts, no cities on the plains and by the sea, no mountains tunneled, no valleys filled, no aqueducts, no canals, no railroads, except by the toil of muscle and nerve.

Genius and brain have often come to relieve much of the drudgery ; the screw, the lever, the wedge, were the first and simplest. Then steam, electricity, the printing press, the sewing machine, and the thousand of contrivances whereby labor is lessened and often made pleasant. Yet, the inventions of the past and present are of no avail without the toil and weariness of laboring hands around and behind them.

Beyond all these matters of husbandry, stock-raising, machinery and toil, are other questions equally important and affecting the material interests of the farmer. I know many are horrified at the thought of passing beyond what they would like to make the dead line between labor in all its ramifications and the privileges of special interests acquired by charter or combination ; but many of the latter have become so grasping and aggressive that self-protection forces the consideration with the view of securing justice to the comparative few, and equal justice to the toiling multitude.

If we were only allowed to ascertain what county and whose farm made the greatest yield, whose creamery or dairy produced the best butter and cheese, which grade of cattle or swine made most meat from an equal quantity of grain, and by way of moral diversion, which horse, for no sort of use to the horse or its owner, could be forced into the greatest speed, or be amused with a balloon of huge proportions demonstrating the folly and possibly the injury and death of only one man, while the balloons of conservative inflationists, with pockets full of tracts, on stable currency, yet hands pumping and mouths full of material to fill the balloons which impair the prosperity of the nation. If this were the extent of your mission then the chapter might be brief, but the productions of America are so extensive in the number of persons engaged therein the vast business interests they support, the nations of the old world they are helping to feed, that it becomes important we should widen the vision. Consider, at least, all matters connected with and depending upon agriculture.

Vast as are the railroad interests representing millions multiplied by millions, aggregating more than one-eighth of the wealth of the nation, yet their real prosperity is dependent upon the products of the soil. The prospect of bountiful crops gives life to their business, elevates stock. The bull of Wall street, borrowing the name of the leader of the herd, tosses his head and booms, while the grasshopper and chinch bug and drouth are watched with solicitude, and their coming depresses, only enlivening the sluggish, torpid bear, also of Wall street, who is hoping for crash and reverse that he may grow fat.

So, too, with the manufacturers and merchants : bountiful harvests mean an increased demand and activity in all trade.

This nation has tided over its greatest financial difficulty and achieved its greatest financial victory, and resumption made possible only because our surplus productions, needed abroad, called coin and bullion from nearly all the nations of Europe. From this stand point how plain that there is necessarily no conflict and should be no antagonisms between any branch of labor and between capital and labor. Although this is too often only sentiment and after due exhortation, the fact is apparent that from the natural belligerency of mankind the time for the lying down of the lion and the lamb, or the bulls and the bears exist more in hope than realization.

From the early times this has been a vast huckstering, trafficking world, with individuals and nations each seeking advancement at the expense of the other. In trade this has been called competition ; in governmental affairs, ambition.

Jacob did it when he watered stock, and to deceive Laban, his father-in-law, placed whoop-poles in the gutters of the watering trough. So did Pharoah and Joseph when they sold corn at famine prices in Egypt. From the days of Cain an apology for defrauding or over-reaching is ever found in the heartless and criminal inquiry, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Since nations have been breaking down the Chinese wall, which themselves had made in the guise of high tariff, and exchanging more liberally the productions of each, it becomes more necessary to study the changed conditions of trade and commerce. New channels and new industries necessitate new modes of thought. As well retain the tinder box, the flint lock,

the battering ram as the dogmas of political economists of the past century.

## II.

### THE FINANCES.

The world has advanced as much in currency and finance as in production and transportation.

As well cross the ocean by sail and wind as to insist that gold can be the only circulating medium.

A century ago in transportation and currency no other factors were known, but the world's progress has given a more active power to propel and a more convenient medium of exchange.

Natural philosophy may not change, new principles may be involved, but gravitation, light, heat, the movement of the heavenly bodies remain the same as in the age of Galileo, but political economy based upon and representing the most approved theories of the times when written, must change as nations develop and advance, and keep abreast of progress in manufactures, trade and commerce. The great economic writers of other days should be gratefully remembered, but if living today many of them would modify their own theories.

We should benefit by the changes of our national experience.

A few years ago, in the flush of prosperity, when legal tenders were basis of currency, when its volume rather than character made all industries active and profitable, many prophesied disaster, which was a safe thing to do, and made paper money the cause, and the only remedy a coin basis.

In due time we reached that point; soon came another wild mania for speculation. The same conservative philosophers who had denounced paper money next said we had too much coin, when it was flowing back upon us like the tide in exchange for the cattle and grain of the west.

Then the same financial philosophers, in order to inaugurate another panic from which they might increase their gains, insist that money is too abundant, and silver must be eliminated from the currency. This was the same struggle of the few against the many.

Then a portion of the press, controlled in trade centers by the money interest, denounced the masses as silver lunatics and denounced the silver craze. Congress stood firm and sustained the people over the veto of a too willing president.

We were assured in the raid against legal tenders that a hard money basis would repress the spirit of gambling and speculation, yet this nation never witnessed such dangerous criminal and law violating speculation as since resumption.

These same philosophers who assume all knowledge and wisdom in financial concerns in their bankers convention, a few weeks ago, admitted that a large proportion of the business of the country, probably nineteen-twentieths, was based upon paper and upon credit. When paper was based upon the credit and faith of a nation of 50,000,000 people, these men were instant in season and out of season prophesying evil. Now, when it is based upon the credit of speculators who, in a few years, or months, may be bankrupt, the air is not so full of warnings from that source and the sentinels on the watch towers are not prophets of disasters.

Very many of these financial philosophers, who often seek to put off their notions as embodiments of patriotism, are loaning millions upon collaterals of stocks and bonds, which they know at the first approach of danger will be worthless many of them fraudulently issued and in violation of law, known to be swindling, designing schemes to entrap victims, which will prove a fraud upon the banks and a still greater fraud upon the masses.

The bankers are helping this dangerous inflation—they are furnishing the light air to blow these bubbles. Without their aid the victims could not obtain money for margins, and without their assistance the schemers who build new roads or rehabilitate bankrupt ones with the open, notorious intention to defraud by placing two and often four dollars in stocks and bonds on the market for every dollar really expended, could not float their worthless paper.

Much indignation is manifested at the same system in adulterating other articles—by making greasy oleomargarine and calling it butter; by mixing glucose and white earth in sugar; a moderate sprinkling of corn juice in beer or water, sometimes

strychnine, in whiskey ; but the *adulteration of stocks and bonds*, fourfold the value of the property, excites no alarm in the minds of conservatives bankers, or at least not to the extent of withholding loans, thereby preventing this mad career of villainy.

Thus we see how important that each industry should understand and watch the other. Why not? Who are more interested in a sound currency and a stable credit than the toilers on the land—toilers everywhere—toilers in the workshop, toilers on the prairies? When the crash comes labor is most injured and powerless to protect itself.

The greatness of its numbers is a source of weakness. The banking interests can easily assemble in national convention and act in concert for a common purpose. The great railroads can be represented in the smallest parlor at Saratoga, so few in numbers are the controlling spirits. When bank or railroad presidents meet in convention no outside interest attempts to checkmate their movements. No Jeremy Diddlers bold enough to seek to wool the eyes of these schemers. Who would hope that a national convention of producers would accomplish any practical benefit when a county and state organization is sought to be controlled in other interests and real antagonism to their own.

### III.

#### THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM.

If finance is a legitimate question to be considered, so is the more important one of transportation. All human power, whether of wealth or of state, will be exercised at times arbitrarily. All people recognizing this fact have restrained by law the avarice, the greed and cruelty of money. The usurer has always been denounced. The class of Shylocks with keen scent for blood money, always descant about the value of property, that money like other property should regulate their rate of interest by supply and demand. In assumed superiority they deny the common mind the right to discuss or even consider so obtruse a subject as finance. They claim that should be left to the men who make it a life study.



So unrelenting and overbearing is the cent. per cent. that the usury laws are frequently violated. Men will take the chances of the penalty, just as the pirate on the ocean and the smuggler in port.

Talk about antagonism of capital and labor; talk about strikes and communism. Does the pulpit and press ring out its fearful anathemas upon capital setting laws at defiance in its unholy greed to take the pound of flesh, and if not held by the throat would willingly take the drop of blood? The danger is not that the farmers and laborers will know too much in problems of government. If the masses are ignorant on these questions, that ignorance is a crime, and there is the danger.

Here is your mistake. You give too little attention to finance, to transportation and politics. Give these matters thought. Save a little time from the plow and field to study. Keep your children in school. Don't send them with the herd as soon as they can straddle the pony, or put them to the plow as soon as they can reach the handles. If you do, other interests will get the better of you. The struggle of this age is not with muscle, even on the field requiring muscle. You must have the brains as well as the brawn.

You are educating the soil into more generous harvests; you have improved the grade of cattle; even rounded out the form of the hog until it is exciting the diplomatists of all civilized countries. Now do as much for yourself and children. Education will give you better crops, better herds, better markets, and in the struggle with men who live alone by the brain, you can meet, if not on an equal field, at least not to a disadvantage.

We know the difficulties in the way of education are somewhat appalling. The father must toil from early morn to night-fall to procure bread for the little ones, and then the little ones must toil to help get money to pay interest to save the homestead, to appease the tax-gatherer.

Will you then tell me it is wrong for the state to interpose and protect the toiling helpless laborer? That it shall insist that money, that corporate wealth, that banks, that railroads, that telegraph lines shall pay their just and full share of the taxes. Will you tell me that the state should not compel the usurer to be satisfied with the legal rate of interest? that rail-

roads and telegraph companies should not double and quadruple the stocks and bonds of its roads and then insist upon dividends for its watered stock and bonds.

Of late some railroad magnates, while denying or attempting to ignore this species of legislation, are clamoring for national interference to protect one class of operators from the shark-like propensity of another. It seems there is much of human kind in stock operators; the habit of devouring grows after crunching all victims within reach, they sometimes turn and rend each other. Some of the lamb-like creatures desire Congress to interfere and prevent their destruction by the ravenous beasts that get in the fold, claiming that no obligations of honesty or honor can hold some men to a pool they have voluntarily joined, and they demand that the occasional outbreak of competition merely for gambling purposes shall be throttled by Congress. This position is at least a concession of the power of the people to regulate and control. Thus the world moves. We rejoice in the indication of healthy action from the moral standpoint.

The most wonderful stock operator of the age, Jay Gould, obtained not long since a sprinkle of religion. It was a strange weird place to obtain that commodity—down in Missouri, at Kansas City. Kansas accounts for it that he was so near the line of that state, and the holy influences lapped Missouri. He seemed then to be renouncing the allurements of Wall street when he said he had already secured of wealth—money—enough to satisfy all his reasonable wants; that his family was small and he had sufficient for their maintenance; that henceforth he would own, stock, and bond, railroads purely for the good of the country and love of the people. But alas the return to Wall street was too demoralizing. He fell from grace and went on watering stocks more vigorously than before.

Then that other wonderful operator, Vanderbilt, when he was away from the gambling dens of New York City, he, too, had a twinge of conscience and seemed reaching for the anxious seat. Not so strange in his case, as he could more fully realize the fleetness of life when he saw Maud S. fleetly dashing around the track; then away from the bulls and bears he could enjoy the more soothing society of horsemen. Possibly the tranquil and

sacred influences of Chicago had a happy effect in elevating the thoughts and heart sufficiently long and high to bewail the wickedness of the age when he proclaimed that the recklessness and villainy of the day in issuing stocks and bonds was unparalleled; that no road was ever built or reorganized that did not fraudulently issue four times the cost of its construction.

Vanderbilt has returned to the east, but there is no record whether he has gone back to the abominations he denounced.

But the good work goes on. The Herald of Omaha, from which I am always proud to quote. (Has not our good friend Dr. Miller always insisted that it was the only religious paper in the west) has proclaimed the present railroad building making the republic one vast credit mobilier, by a construction company. An inside ring of the incorporators contract with themselves to defraud the future owners of the road, as well as the public. That a new telegraph line was organized and a contract made with themselves for construction at \$300 per mile, when the actual cost could not exceed \$100.

The Herald asks what is "the matter," and answers "that the line is built by subscription to capital stock, and the greater the cost the wider the margin for stock operations."

The Herald truthfully adds, "It will surprise a great many people to learn that some of the largest railway projects in the country have been undertaken and carried to completion without the expenditure of a dollar of their own money by the original projectors and largest owners. This is done by stocking and bonding the concern, to double the cost of construction, possibly three times the cost."

Speaking of Gould, the Herald says among his wonderful achievements, "He purchased the Missouri Pacific for \$5,000,000. To realize handsomely on this venture he issues \$30,000,000 worth of stock, \$25,000,000 of which was water."

At another time, the Herald says, "The Pulman Palace Car Company has watered its stock \$2,000,000 but keeps the price of bunks up just the same."

When these facts are boldly stated by those who claim to know, I trust we may be pardoned for an occasional allusion, and that no taunts of "hayseed" and "demagogue" may be hurled at those who are inclined to repeat the same.

With all this evidence, will it be claimed that the state should not interpose to protect, not the gamblers who are willing to buy and sell worthless stocks and bonds, but the people. There has been added in valueless stocks and bonds more than the national debt, on which is paid a greater rate of interest.

It is always safe to do right. When it was proposed by the Nebraska legislature of 1878, to reduce the rate of interest from 12 to 10 per cent., the representatives of the money interest protested that loanable capital would be forced from the state, but the legislature boldly acted, reduced the rate, and money came more freely than before. So in 1880 a bill was introduced affecting slightly railroad management, so just that many of the special advocates of railroad interests voted for the measure so equitably as to provoke no adverse criticism, except it was suggested that if any railroad legislation were had no more roads would be built and eastern capital be banished. How different the result. Never so many miles built and projected as during the last year.

A fair, manly course on the part of the people and the legislature has inspired confidence on the part of eastern operators. They know that a state which has the manhood to do justice by its own people, to capital and labor equally, is a safe place to make investments whether in railroads, hotels, manufactures or real estate. No interest should be so generous and considerate to the people, for none had been so aided. The nation, the states, counties and precincts, have donated in land subsidies, and money even mortgaging the future, for generations to fill the treasuries of railroad corporations.

#### IV.

##### THE TARIFF.

The world has made progress in more liberal interchange of the productions of different nations and our own notions in regard to tariff must be somewhat modified and the wise sayings of economic writers of a past age will not apply. The old cry about competing with pauper labor in Europe, and that we should have market for our produce where our goods are man-

ufactured cannot any longer strengthen the demand for high tariff, because the ports of the old world are substantially open, and we are feeding English operatives, and the price of our meats and grain is fixed, not at New York but at Liverpool.

The great portion of the American people believe in a judicious tariff, but such modifications are demanded as will accord with the changed and liberal advance of other nations. The rights of the masses are recognized in England, why not in America? Her people demanded cheap bread, and the obnoxious corn laws were repealed. It is claimed we can compete with foreign manufactures, then why so much tariff? Senator Miller, of New York, with a few others enjoying by a tariff the monopoly of wood pulp in manufacturing paper says that he can compete with foreign paper. Then why a tariff? He also says he can successfully compete with England in Brazil, if the government will subsidize a steamship line and carry his goods at small cost. Can any one to-day assert with reason that the present tariff should be continued on lumber shutting us out from the Canadian forests. The owners of our pineries have already become millionaires. Our pineries need no protection; not so much as the farmers of Nebraska. A few weeks ago, the bulls of the lumber market arbitrarily and without any possible necessity, added twenty-five per cent. to the price. If lumber is becoming scarce and expensive, the greater reason why it should be allowed free. Can you imagine why a tax of so much per thousand feet should be imposed to fill pockets already overflowing. Thus you will see that all special and favored interests are imposing taxation directly or indirectly. The great mass of the people are continually made hewers of wood and drawers of water for the few. Each of those interests specially protected are ready to unite for common defense. When the attempt shall be made to remove the tax on lumber—wood pulp, iron, every monopoly that the nation has protected through infancy to full grown manhood, will unite to prevent any relief. There is no reason why agricultural industry and labor generally should be forever taxed to make more wealthy and powerful class interests which the people have already made strong by special legislation so that now they seek to dominate and control the policy of the government.

## CIVIL SERVICE REFORM,

Lately has appeared a new combination in the body politic in the Office Holders' Protective Union under the guise of civil service reform, the object being to insure life positions under government. This new dispensation is proclaimed principally by those in office reinforced by occasional outsiders, some bankers who much prefer all matters should run in the rut they have established, importers who know their men in the custom houses, contractors, star routers and others, who, to a certain extent, own and control the bureaus with which they come in contact, others who always for obvious reasons want to be "let alone." But where is the evidence that the people endorse or desire this political jugglery. Constitutions of all the states provide short terms of office and some carefully guard the principle in the case of certain offices, notably treasurer and sheriff, where the officer might exercise great influence by the manipulation of his office for his re-election by providing that he shall not be eligible to re-election, or a term should intervene between his holding. The people have emphatically decided, no matter how strong in their confidence and love no man shall be elected a third term to the presidency. The dogma of these latter day political saints is the pharasaical assumption that no one except themselves and family and friends are worthy and competent to hold offices and that the present system of office holding is demoralizing and disgraceful. Why then do they not themselves retire to private life. They are always more patriotic than Artemas Ward, who sent his wife's relatives to the war. These men are willing to sacrifice their blood relatives, even children, by seeking and holding official positions. They are clamorous that the government should be administered on business principles. Precisely ; that is just what we want and what we do not get at the hands of the reformers. What business in this or any country, even England, which is the beau ideal of a government, for those "holier than thou patriots" selects its officers, agents and employees after competitive examination. The government is not suffering to-day from want of business capacity. Now and then it takes detriment from want of hon-

esty. It might be less objectionable if it would commence higher up ; there would be the merit of consistency. If a clerk receiving \$1,200 per annum can only enter after a severe examination, it would seem important that the one drawing \$2,000 should also, yet that is not required. They leave the higher positions as rewards for political and partisan service, yet the inferior places must be filled by men of actual business capacity and education fitting them for professorships in college. Certainly ! Have business qualifications, but have them where most needed. The idea of a committee of school masters, or meaner still, those not knowing as much as school masters, who, after long study, frame series of questions having no connection with the office to be filled—the length of longest rivers height of mountains, capitals of foreign countries, about squares, cubes and fractions, questions the examiners could not answer, except as they had studied the questions with the view of perplexing men with possibly more business qualifications and habits than themselves. One statement will explain. A person seeking a clerkship in the interior department was asked the distance of the sun from the earth at the nearest point. He replied : after leaving school he could have answered, at present he could not, although he could assure them it would probably not come near enough to interfere with the discharge of his duties as clerk in the interior department. So he was correct unless some Indian tribes inhabited the sun, and then the chances were that the department would somehow manage to put the redskins on his track with the most improved rifle and a flask of whiskey.

Let reform commence at the top. Have men in charge of departments and bureaus who have more business qualifications than their employees; who will know whether the clerks are competent and the business properly conducted. If the people really desire a change in the policy of the administration, let the unseemly and sometimes disgraceful scramble for office stop with the great statesmen of the nation and no more schemes and devices to pack primaries, county and state conventions, no more mobs and claquers at national conventions. But if the head of the government must be changed then stop office-hunting for cabinet positions. That is as disgraceful as a scramble

for clerkships. Seven times seven candidates for each of the seven positions. Petitions, delegations, committees, inundated the president-elect. General Garfield was evidently more annoyed in the selection of his cabinet than by the application of comparatively few for the remaining one hundred thousand positions. It would be interesting to know which one of the present cabinet could inform the people how far distant was the sun from the earth at the nearest point.

If the gentlemen now filling cabinet positions are zealous civil service reformers, why did they not at an earlier and more opportune moment withdraw their friends from raids on the president for the seats they now fill? Why should they struggle for positions and not grant that high boon to the humblest citizen. The cabinet ministers say they are worried; why not? The president was worried by the importunities of their friends. The occasion of their worry is principally because they enter upon their office ignorant of their duties, probably more so than the man who is seeking a clerkship, and many months of perplexing and arduous labor is required to learn the rudiments and rules of their department, the principal part of which they must learn from the clerks under them, and for many months be instructed and directed by the employees. Will the reformers make a note of this? Doubtless while this perplexes, the application for position is the last feather, for every mole hill seems like a mountain to a weary man. It will be an unfortunate day to the republic when the citizen shall cease to be a politician or indifferent as to who shall seek or serve in office. It will be best for the people to retain the power they possess. No privileged few shall be allowed to make office-seeking or interfering in politics disgusting. The basest tyrannical governing power always has been an aristocracy. Venice lost the republic and the right of centuries when the people were cajoled, and delegated to the grand council of four hundred the right of voting for magistrates. We are continually reminded of what England does. We were not aware there was much in the English government for a republic to copy, although we are aware there was a certain class in the country who would like to extend the copy and establish a monarchy. The liberal and liberty-loving Englishman will always find a warm place



in the American heart, but the governing class cannot make models for us. This government will send no Yankee clocks run by dynamite to keep time, or end time even for her aristocracy. We remember in our darkest days, when the life of this nation was trembling in the balance, the aid and sympathy of England's lords was extended to our foes. We remember her aristocracy not only allowed, but advanced money to build blockade runners. And we must be allowed at least to render sympathy for those of her people or under her yoke who feel oppressed. We rejoice that one of the evidences that America has not lived in vain, the moral effect of our example and the kindly offices of our sympathy have produced good fruit when parliament felt compelled to do partial justice to Ireland, to give a ray of hope to her toiling masses. To recognize the right of peasantry, to know they have some interest in the soil by allowing them what common justice would grant even to tenants on lands which did not contain the graves of their fathers and had not been ruthlessly taken away from their ancestors.

How unfortunate that our reformers did not utilize their business notions in that branch of the government where some benefits might result. Then thousands might not have been wasted on machinery to make sugar from corn stalks, and thousands more in the efforts to grow tea where tea could not possibly grow. No part of the government brings so great returns for the money expended as the postal service and the men employed in the railroad branch, toiling by night and day, when disabled or killed in the line of duty are as deserving of pensions as soldiers on the field of battle. Yet many of the most meritorious by reason of the insufficiency of the appropriation by congress have been reduced in salary. Millions for star routes, sums sufficiently large to divide, yet only hundreds for men in railway mail service. The late Postmaster General Key evidently needed some business qualification and a vast deal more honesty in his department.

#### VI.

#### THE INDIANS.

The Indian Bureau is another fine field for gleaning, a splendid opening for a new infusion of business tact. All the states

men and all administrations have grappled with the problem and the Indian or the Indian agent and trader have unhorsed them all. All experiments here have been expensive failures. The last, placing them under control of the religious societies, made no improvement. Sentiment, fiction, poetry gush, if you please, will not subdue the wild Indian. An excuse is made for his outbreak, because he has been wronged or robbed. Every reading person in America is cognizant of that fact. Do they not know, does not the department know, that nearly every man who is willing to leave a home of comfort in the eastern or middle states to hunt up and by the aid of civil service reform, secure an agency or tradership, or contract, does it not for the meagre salary, but in some way to filch from the Indian, to plunder him of his annuities, and defraud him of his goods. Even though the church sends him,—few men go in the name of the Lord.

The appointing power so dearly prized by all presidents is surrendered not to the delegation in congress, who would at least desire to serve their state by appointing the most competent men to prevent collisions, and the destruction of property, and the massacre of innocent women and children, but the power is surrendered to the control of the irresponsible secretaries of the different societies located in the east, and they recommend, and the Indian commission with becoming modesty approves. The cabinet minister nods consent and the president appoints. The character of these appointments have done no credit either to the department or to the church. There has been the same inefficiency, the same robbery. The only men who seem to be ignorant of these facts, are the department and the government. They squander millions without any apparent care or concern and seem not to imagine any danger until the skies are aglow with burning buildings and the air filled with piercing shrieks of murdered settlers and soldiers massacred. Why will not the nation demand a halt in this villainous and bloody system? For every burning building, every murdered man, woman and child is but the result of a policy which every administration refuses to let go for no other reason than the patronage enjoyed and the profits to friends. Canby and his comrades at the Lava Beds, Custer and his command ;

now, part of Carr's command. Will not this suffice? The tears of the tender philanthropist will flow for the poor Indian : will the same eyes weep for the pioneer and his family escaping from the flames of his dwelling only to be brutally murdered or tortured by the malignant demons. All this rests with your government or rather with the people. Undoubtedly the Indian bureau, the interior department, the administration, could find honest, judicious, faithful men to fill the positions, but that never has been done and never will be. This system has been tried with nothing but failure, in millions of money squandered and rivers of blood. We invite settlers to the frontier and leave them to the merciless cruelty of the savage. We plant a little band of brave soldiers on the out-post, and then arm the most murderous of the tribes with better rifles than the soldiers command and leave them to be massacred. Have we not had full enough? How much more destruction and murder before the people will demand that this matter be placed in charge of the war department, saving the salaries of the vast army of agents and employes, but better still, put it in charge of men whose experience will guide and whose character will be a guaranty of fair treatment to the red man.

## VII.

### THE WATER HIGHWAYS.

Let us pause a moment with a more pleasing theme, and prepare to ask of the government to do a substantial blessing for the masses in which nearly one-half the territory and population of the nation are deeply interested : that is to improve their own property, the great water courses ; some of the grandest rivers on the continent—rivers draining empires in extent, in grandeur, in wealth of production. Give a small proportion of amounts heretofore expended on rivers having little water and no commerce ; give a tithe of what has been bestowed on other improvements, and we will open and make permanent these highways to the sea.

## VIII.

## THE PEOPLES' PRIVILEGE.

We have been talking for years of danger for monopolies, yet to-day they are strongly entrenched, substantially controlling congress and many of the state legislatures. They do it through you, through the people, and the men whom you elect. You have the power, they the money and skill. They secure the best legal talent of the country at the bar, and too often on the bench. See the many contests between railroad land grants and the people. Generally the citizen is beaten. Will they claim that the law is on their side? Not always. Take a case in our own state in Thayer and other southern counties, where many had entered and purchased lands, obtained patents from government, spending in improvements their last dollar and labor of themselves and families, and paying the taxes; then comes a representative of the Denver and St. Joe claiming the lands. The department decides against him, the humble owners still make improvements sustained by patents and decisions of department. The representative of the railroad bides his time, confident that in the courts he has a firm friend and waits until the claim is nearly outlawed, then by a species of jugglery well-known to those who can utilize the courts, by a robbery worse than any English landlord would dare perpetrate, seeks to wrest the title from those who had the best possible title, a government patent, lands improved and taxes paid for ten years. And they find a court ready to obey the infamous demands, and by a most outrageous decision order the land to the robber chief. Had this villainy been attempted in Ireland, a wild cry would have rung throughout the land. But the end of that crime is not yet, and we trust a power may be found to keep the spoiler from his prey.

The remedy for this and other evils of administration is with the people. They may not always prevent abuses, but they can soon check and utterly destroy the authors of them. They must have a greater knowledge, and take a deeper interest in politics from the ward and precinct caucuses to the election of president. Two parties are organized and established on well

defined principles. Sentiment is very well to hold men to a political platform, yet while struggling for the sentiment be careful that the organization does not drift under the control of men who prefer self-interest and dollars to sentiment or even patriotism. Let the people stop long enough, not to change parties, but to change leaders occasionally. The people generally content themselves by making an effort to reach the polls one day in the year, and if his party is successful that seems glory enough for him until the next annual election. Be a politician every day in the year, not to the neglect of your business, but the best way to secure it. Remember there is more in politics than mere office-holding—the policy of the government and prosperity of the nation depends upon it. Read, think, and above all things, act. Act in unison. Do as the schemers and manipulators do. Harmonize differences, unite for self-protection. attend the primary and every caucus, then the county and state conventions. You have the power, exercise it. Nominate good men, and then elect them. Break the slate now and then. You are antagonized by the sharpest and brainiest men in the land. They make politics a study ; do nothing else ; they can run caucuses, conventions and legislatures, and the people are like clay in their hands. They will tell you in a patronizing manner that the people are well enough in their way, but they don't really understand politics any more than they do finance and transportation, and you will have no trouble in finding agreeable, educated gentlemen in the large cities who are willing to take your proxies and attend to your political duties. Remember that you have here more important duties to discharge than ploughing, planting and reaping. Elect men to the legislature who will not be bribed by adverse interests, or cajoled by the blandishments of a state capital.

## IX.

### CONCLUSION.

As we stand to-day in the greatest city of Nebraska and what is destined to be in wealth, education and refinement the largest city in the west, whose growth and wealth, like that of the

state, seems to increase with a magic more wonderful than that of Aladdin's lamp. We dare not predict the possibilities of the future. If we are true to ourselves and just to all we will continue to be as we are now, the peer of any in the grand sisterhood of states.

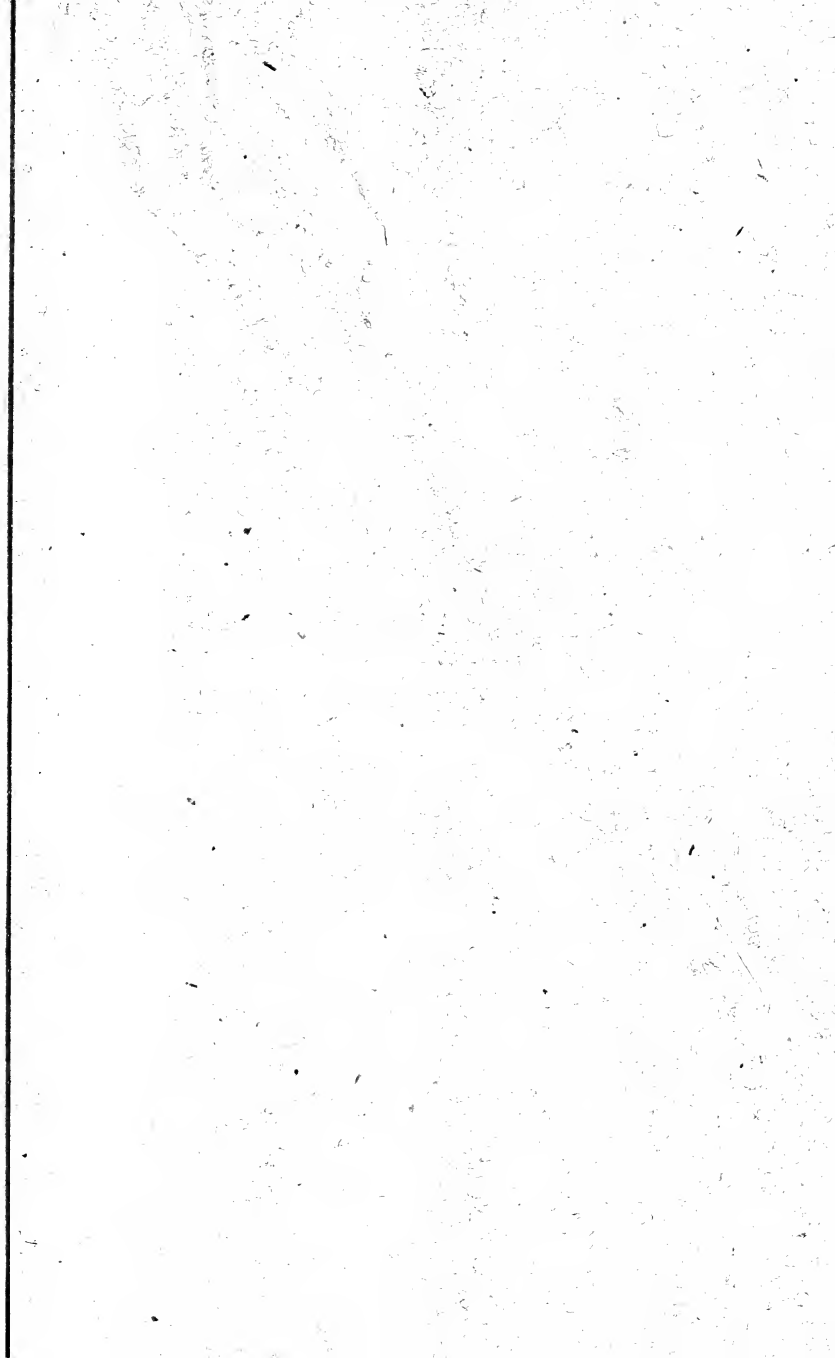
Not only our great development in production and population, but the death roll of some of the early and prominent citizens is bearing testimony that the days of our infancy as a state has passed. Rogers, a distinguished citizen of Dodge county; Kaley, one of the ablest from the Republican Valley; Schick, an honored representative from Nemaha; another, who held the highest position the people of this state could confer, Phineas W. Hitchcock, who had seen the commonwealth from its infancy growing to manhood, outstripping in population and wealth, many of the original thirteen, since last we met have lain down the burden of life.

We had given to the world during the last few weeks the most wonderful exhibition that ever illustrated its history. No people, in ancient or modern times, no form of government furnishes a parallel. A president duly elected to execute the laws for 50,000,000 freemen is stricken down by a cowardly assassin. Save the murderous wretch scarce another from ocean to ocean, from the lakes to the gulf, who does not reprobate the crime. Scarce a knee that has not bowed and a heart that has not fervently gone forth in open or secret prayer for the dying president. Scarce an eye that has not during the touching and pathetic incident dropped the silent tear. Before the mighty calamity at the bedside of the patient sufferer party strife and personal hatred have been stilled and banished. No anxiety more earnest, no grief more sincere than spontaneously came from the democratic party, against which he had so long battled, and the generous sympathy like to a personal sorrow which came from every southern home and heart with whom he had contended on the field of battle, has accomplished more in reuniting the sections than all the reconstruction acts of Congress. Kings and monarchs of Europe by the side of their subjects and serfs, have uncovered and stood in spirit and sympathy around the couch. Another grand spectacle, a people

administering their own government without a ruler, without a president. No power in the government can give an executive order, all the cabinet combined cannot, while the hand of the chief magistrate is powerless, even to sign his name to any decree, yet we can say as did Garfield on an equally solemn occasion : "God reigns and the government at Washington still lives."













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